

VERMONT WORKING LANDS ENTERPRISE INITIATIVE

Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, Meat and Poultry Processors Association

Montpelier, VT



The Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, located in Montpelier, Vermont, was created by the Vermont Legislature in 1995 to accelerate the development of Vermont's green economy. We provide early stage grant funding, technical assistance, and loans to entrepreneurs, businesses, farmers, networks and others interested in developing jobs and markets in the green economy. VSJF currently has 6 staff and 11 board members.



The goal of this project is to drive meat industry development through enhancing producer-processor partnership and professionalism. This is a time-ly three-part project that includes 1) Research, development and implementation of appropriately scaled IT systems for inventory management, ordering and scheduling; 2) Bringing processing experts from other regions to speak at MPPA meetings (relevant topics could include waste management, process flow, and human resource management); and 3) Development of a basic MPPA website with listserv capabilities to enhance communication and information sharing among members.

Total Working Lands Grant—\$15,000.00

Total Match provided by VSJF —\$7,500.00

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GRANT RECIPIENT UPDATE - FEBRUARY '14

The Lot Tracking software (part one of the Working Lands project) for Vermont value-added food businesses has been selected.

On February 19th, the Mad River Food Hub announced that they have selected the DEAR Inventory application to provide small value-added processors with a product traceability solution.

In 2011, President Obama signed the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) into law and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is currently working on finalizing the regulations. This sweeping legislation will significantly impact small businesses by increasing food safety regulations, specifically the requirement to have traceability of all products. (Food traceability refers to record-keeping systems that provide the ability to identify the path and the history of an animal, food product, or food ingredient through the food supply chain).

Recognizing the impact this legislation will have on Vermont's small and emerging food businesses, Robin Morris, founder of the Mad River Food Hub in Waitsfield, Vermont, embarked on a quest to provide every small-scale food producer and processor in Vermont with an affordable, easy to implement, and easy to use lot tracking system, especially food businesses using food hub facilities, in order to meet FDA, USDA, and market-enforced food traceability requirements.

To view the full press release, reports, and deliverables, visit:
<http://vt.foodprotectiontaskforce.com/resources/lottracking>